

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2 and 6 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 3-5 and 7 as follows (*A marked-up copy of the amended claims is provided as an attachment to this Response*):

B1
3. (Amended) A method for screening a candidate medicament for treatment and/or prevention of an apoptosis-associated disease which comprises the step of detecting binding between NADE (p75NTR-associated cell death executor) and an apoptosis related protein which binds to NADE in the presence of a candidate medicament to be tested.

B2
4. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the candidate medicament tested is selected as a candidate of an effective medicament when the candidate medicament inhibits or increases the interaction between NADE and an apoptosis related protein which binds to NADE.

B3
5. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, which comprises
(a) allowing NADE and an apoptosis related protein which binds to NADE to interact with each other in the presence of the candidate medicament to be tested,
(b) allowing NADE and an apoptosis related protein which binds to NADE to interact with each other in the absence of the candidate medicament to be tested,
(c) detecting the interactions in (a) and (b), and
(d) comparing the interactions in (a) and (b)
(e) choosing the candidate medicament having an effect on the interaction when compared to the